

all under tree canopy, and that they are visible for about the same distance. This makes the comparisons much simpler and the results much more easy to interpret. For other tips on the practicalities of light-trapping, readers may find Waring (1994) and the references listed there of interest.

Lastly, I am sure readers will look forward to reading the results of Dearnaley *et al.* (referred to as "in prep." in Majerus *et al.* 1994 p129 para. 4) when this study is published. There is already a large body of literature reporting that the effectiveness of light-traps is influenced by trap design, bulb height and the height of the trap above ground. It is also known that the performance of bulbs deteriorates with age and use. Just for the record, all the traps in the experiments reported by Waring (1989, 1990) were operated on the ground. All the tubes and bulbs for the traps were purchased new at the start of the experiments and the tubes in the actinic light traps were replaced at the start of each year. In all comparisons the traps were operated all night in order to sample as large a range of moths and their possible times of flight as possible. These and other experimental details, including dates and sites, are given in full in Waring (1990).—PAUL WARING, Windmill View, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6LS.

#### REFERENCES

- Bowden, J. 1982. An analysis of factors affecting catches of insects in light traps. *Bull. Ent. Res.* **72**: 535–556.
- Hosny, M.M. 1953. Studies on the activity and abundance of macrolepidoptera in relation to environment. Ph.D thesis (unpublished). University of London.
- Hosny, M.M. 1955. Notes on the effect of some secondary environmental conditions on the activity of nocturnal Macrolepidoptera. *Bull. Soc. Ent. d'Egypte* **39**: 297–314.
- Hosny, M.M. 1959. A review of results and a complete list of Macrolepidoptera caught in two ultra-violet light traps during 24 months, at Rothamsted, Hertfordshire. *Entomologists' Mon. Mag.* **95**: 226–236.
- Majerus, M., Grigg, A., Jones, C., Salmon, F., Strathdee, A. and Dearnaley N. 1994. Factors affecting habitat preferences in the Lepidoptera. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* **7**: 129–137.
- Shaw, M. R. 1991. Magpie moth, *Abraxas grossulariata* (L.), (Lep., Geometridae) and other caterpillars on Gooseberry, *Ribes uva-crispa*, in south Cumbria. *Entomologists' Rec. J. Var.* **103**: 272–273.
- Waring, P. 1989. Comparison of light-trap catches in deciduous and coniferous woodland habitats. *Entomologists' Rec. J. Var.* **101**: 1–10.
- Waring, P. 1990. Abundance and diversity of moths in woodland habitats. Ph.D. thesis (unpublished). Oxford Polytechnic (now Oxford Brookes University).
- Waring, P. 1994. Moth traps and their use. *Br. Wildlife* **5**: 137–148.

---

#### SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

**Deadwood Coleoptera from two important Denbighshire parklands, including five species new to Wales.**—Two National Trust owned historic parks, Chirk and Erddig, have received very little attention from entomologists in the past, but have now proved to be of considerable interest for their deadwood fauna. Both were visited in 1993 as part of the Trust's national programme of biological survey. The park at Chirk originated as a 14th century hunting park, while the early history of Erddig is not yet known.

Erddig Park (SJ326482) straddles the Black Brook immediately above its confluence with the Clywedog River and therefore encompasses ancient river-cliff woodland within its present bounds. Amongst the more interesting finds are a

*Tetratoma desmaresti* Lat. found beneath bark of a dead lower branch on an old oak, 23.vi, a *Prionocyphon serricornis* (Müller, P. W. J.) swept at the base of a wooded river-cliff section in Big Wood, 24.vi, and a dead *Prionychus ater* (F.) beneath loose bark on the trunk of a mature ash, and a *Quedius ventralis* (Aragona) under loose bark with congealed sap on a horse chestnut trunk, both 28.vi.1993. Other species of lesser note include *Ctesias serra* (F.), *Bitoma crenata* (F.), and *Xestobium rufovillosum* (Deg.). A subsequent visit, on 26.iv.1994, added an elytron of *Ischnomera ? cyanea* (F.) found beneath loose bark on an oak, and A. P. Fowles took a *Ernoporus fagi* (F.) from beech bark.

Chirk Castle Park (SJ269381) was visited on 19.vii. 1993. The old deer park includes a large concentration of ancient oaks, partly within a matrix of secondary birch, oak, beech and sycamore, partly in conifer plantation and including a large area of open bracken with some hawthorns. The most important find here was *Dorcatoma serra* Panz., which was tapped from a bracket of *Inonotus dryadeus* on an oak. *Ctesias serra* was found on another old oak. The neighbouring Baddy's Park is a large area of sheep pasture studded with overmature oak and hawthorn, plus a few field maple. The most interesting find here was *Abdera quadrifasciata* (Curt.) which was tapped from a dead lower branch of an old spreading oak. *Eledona agricola* (Herbst) was typically found in *Laetiporus sulphureus* bracket on an oak, and other species noted include *Cryptarcha strigata* (F.), *Prionychus ater*, *Pediacus dermestoides* (F.) and *Xestobium rufovillosum*. A dead tree in the Home Park was riddled with borings of a *Xyloterus* sp., most probably *X. domesticus* (L.). This is clearly an important old Border parkland and would merit further investigation.

Of these beetles, *Abdera quadrifasciata*, *Dorcatoma serra*, *Ernoporus fagi*, *Quedius ventralis*, and *Tetratoma desmaresti* are new to Wales, and *Cryptarcha strigata*, *Eledona agricola*, and *Prionychus ater* new to North Wales.

These findings bring both sites into the top league of Welsh parklands. The "Alexander index" for both parks currently stands at 13, a total surpassed in Wales only by Dinefwr Park (Alexander & Pavett, 1992) and Powis Castle Park, with indices of 25 and 17 respectively. Old Cilgwyn, Ceredigion also has 13, while Gregynog Great Wood stands close at 12. Welsh parks are however currently the subject of a major survey by the Countryside Council for Wales.

My thanks go to Adrian Fowles of the Countryside Council for Wales for his comments on an earlier draft of this note.—K. N. A. ALEXANDER, National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1QW.

#### REFERENCE

- Alexander, K. N. A. & Pavett, P. M. 1992. The beetles of Dinefor Castle Estate. *Dyfed Inv. Group Newsl.* 25: 1-9.

*Myopites eximia* Seguy (Diptera: Tephritidae) new to Devon.—While in S. Devon on holiday, I collected some dead flowerheads of golden samphire, *Inula crithmoides* L., growing from rock crevices low down on the rocky coast on the south side of Bolt Tail (SX 669394), 14.xi.1993. In due course, a single specimen of this red data book (Shirt, 1987) species emerged (called *M. frauenfeldi* Schiner in that publication).

*M. eximia* is only known from western and south-western Europe (White, 1988), and in Britain has only so far been reported from south-eastern England, as far west as Dorset (Falk, 1991). The foodplant is much more widespread than this, occurring from the Mull of Galloway southwards along the Atlantic coasts of Europe and across the Mediterranean (Clapham *et al.*, 1989). Falk (1991) associated the species